

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 11; cancel Claims 9, 10 and 19-28; and add new Claims 29-40, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A workflow integration system ~~for a collaboration system~~ that allows for sharing of workflow information among a plurality of collaboration participants, comprising:
  - a plurality of collaboration participants;
  - a workflow server on each collaboration participant, and having stored thereon a participant workflow, ~~wherein said participant workflow that~~ specifies process information for a project that is local to that collaboration participant, wherein a project is a group of related tasks; and
  - a collaboration server having stored thereon ~~and managing~~ an enterprise workflow that defines combined process information for the participant workflows, and that includes tasks to be executed across the plurality of collaboration participants to achieve a combined result, said collaboration server further comprising
    - a conversation initiation logic that initiates a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol,
    - ~~and that facilitates conversations spanning those collaboration participants, wherein said enterprise workflow includes a group of tasks executed by the collaboration server across the plurality of collaboration participants to achieve a combined result; and~~
    - an integration logic that allows one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow, ~~to affect the local projects running thereon.~~

- 2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise workflow and a participant workflow communicate through exchange of XML data.
5. (Previously Presented) The workflow integration system of claim 1 wherein the enterprise workflow includes at least one process flow lane for each active collaboration participant, and the action of the enterprise workflow is determined by messages sent to and received from each of said active collaboration participants.
6. (Previously Presented) The workflow integration system of claim 5 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages directly from collaboration participants.
7. (Previously Presented) The workflow integration system of claim 5 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages from participant workflows.
8. (Previously Presented) The workflow integration system of claim 7 wherein the enterprise workflow sends and receives messages from a participant workflow via a collaboration enabler authorized to communicate with the collaboration sever.
- 9-10. (Canceled).
11. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating workflows ~~in a collaboration system~~, comprising the steps of:
  - storing an enterprise workflow on a collaboration server, wherein said enterprise workflow includes process information for a plurality of participant workflows, and wherein said enterprise workflow includes a group of tasks executed by the collaboration server across the plurality of collaboration participants, to achieve a combined result;
  - storing a participant workflow on each collaboration participant server, wherein said participant workflow specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant, wherein a project is a group of related tasks;

initiating a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol; and

providing an integration logic that allows one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants from one collaboration participant to another via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow, ~~to affect the local projects running thereon.~~

12-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the enterprise workflow and a participant workflow communicate through exchange of XML data.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the enterprise workflow includes at least one process flow lane for each active collaboration participant, and the action of the workflow is determined by messages sent to and received from each of said active collaboration participants.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including sending messages to and from the enterprise workflow directly to collaboration participants.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including sending messages to and from the enterprise workflow to participant workflows.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 including sending and receiving messages between the enterprise workflow and a participant workflow via a collaboration enabler authorized to communicate with the collaboration sever.

19-28. (Canceled).

29. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the collaboration server further comprises:  
a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol; and

a transport that accepts messages from the collaboration participants using any of the different business protocols, identifies the business protocol being used, and invokes one or more of said plurality of business protocol handlers to communicate the messages between a first participant using a first protocol, and a second participant using a second protocol.

30. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol; and

accepting messages from the collaboration participants using any of the different business protocols, identifying the business protocol being used, and invoking one or more of said plurality of business protocol handlers to communicate the messages between a first participant using a first protocol, and a second participant using a second protocol.

31. (New) A workflow integration system that allows for sharing of workflow information among a plurality of collaboration participants, comprising:

a plurality of collaboration participants;

a workflow server on each collaboration participant, and having stored thereon a participant workflow that specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant;

a collaboration server having stored thereon an enterprise workflow that defines combined process information for the participant workflows, said collaboration server further comprising

a collaboration space that stores a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to

specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol;

a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol;

a transport that accepts messages from the collaboration participants using any of the different business protocols, identifies the business protocol being used, and invokes one or more of said plurality of business protocol handlers; and

wherein one of said participant workflows can interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server.

32. (New) The workflow integration system of claim 31, wherein the collaboration server hosts a plurality of collaboration spaces for receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation, and each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator.

33. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the unique uniform resource locator is used by a participant using a particular business protocol to access a particular collaboration space and the conversation therein.

34. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein said integration logic allows the enterprise workflow to modify an active participant workflow process.

35. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein said integration logic allows a participant workflow to modify an active enterprise workflow process.

36. (New) A method for integrating workflows, comprising the steps of:

storing an enterprise workflow on a collaboration server, wherein said enterprise workflow includes process information for a plurality of participant workflows;

storing a participant workflow on each collaboration participant server, wherein said participant workflow specifies process information for a project local to that collaboration participant;

initiating a conversation among the collaboration participants, wherein said conversation includes a collective set of messages exchanged according to an extensible protocol, wherein said extensible protocol allows a collaboration participant to specify both a routing information and a business protocol, and wherein the routing information is specified by a collaboration participant in a header of the extensible protocol;

providing a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol;

accepting messages from the collaboration participants using any of the different business protocols, identifying the business protocol being used, and invoking one or more of said plurality of business protocol handlers; and

allowing one of said participant workflows to interact with and affect another participant workflow by sending messages between collaboration participants via the conversation on the collaboration server and in accordance with the enterprise workflow.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the collaboration server hosts a plurality of collaboration spaces for receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation, and each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the unique uniform resource locator is used by a participant using a particular business protocol to access a particular collaboration space and the conversation therein.

39. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said integration logic allows the enterprise workflow to modify an active participant workflow process.

Application No. 09/785,862  
Response to OA dated: August 24, 2005  
Response/Amendment dated: January 24, 2006

40. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said integration logic allows a participant workflow to modify an active enterprise workflow process.